

HICHWA et al.,
Application No.: 09/765,522
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PATENT

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-37 are pending. Claims 2, 9-11, 14-17, 19, 23, 24, and 29-37 are allowed. Claims 5 and 13 stand objected to and have been re-written in independent form, as indicated by the Examiner on page 8 of the Detailed Action. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 12, 18, 20-22, and 25-28 stand rejected. Claims 1, 6-8, 12, 18, 20-22, and 25-28 are canceled by this amendment, rendering their rejections moot. These claims are canceled without prejudice in order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims. Claims 3 and 4 are amended to change their dependency from canceled claim 1 to allowed claim 2. The undersigned believes these amendments do not add new matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants believe that upon entry of this amendment all claims pending in this Application will be in condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment, reconsideration of all pending claims, and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date.

If the Examiner believes this amendment does not put all pending claims in condition for allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview to expedite prosecution of this application, and invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (707) 591-0789.

Respectfully submitted,



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